Novel

JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 6/9/79
The Garrison case and Gordon Novel appeals

Novel, who launched one of the larger propaganda shows against Garrison, who as I told you earlier needed no help in irresponsibilities, was an FBI informer, a PCI.

You should have gathered this from what I was driving at in my earlier appeals.

While in most cases, as you know, I respect the right to hold the identifications of informers secret, what the FBI does with them and their "information" and what they do are among the considerations on the other side. In simplification, after the FBI has gotten itw cake it has no right to claim that the crim exists or should exist.

Aside from Novel's activities, which were extensive and extensively reported, and leaks of official records of a private nature to his lawyer, the FBI purged his crud all around,including to the White House.

These and other factors make the fact that Novel had been a PCI relevant and of historical importance.

The wrong extent to which the FBI planned to go in withholdings related to Novel is illustrated by what it had marked for withholding in the attached DJD Informative Note, 62-109060- attached to 4953. You can see that marked for exmption is "He has previously said that," which is followed by "he did not know Lee Harvey Oswald." There is no exemption covering "He has previously said that," is there? (See.119)

A different reviewer, going over Section 123, did not withhold what that analyst had marked for withholding, on a similar note that begins "Gordon Novel,". What is not withheld here is "is a former potential criminal informant of the New Orleans Office and." It was marked for withholding. ("Dr Regis Kennedy...handled previous contacts with Nobel.")

Throughout the withholdings of Novel's name, public a person as he was and the records reflected that he was, activist that he was, the FBI was disclosing unique identifiers which left it beyond any doubt that the name withheld was Novel's. One of these that I have not bothered to send you relates to his having "13 questions" for Garrison.

Whatever one thinks of what I regard as Garrison's irresponsibilities they are of historical significance. Whatever the FBI now wants to be thought of its operations against Garrison, gussied as detachment from him, it is also of historical significance. So, too, is what the FBI spread around the Government, including to the AG and White House. That Novel was a PCI, especially if the FBI declined to continue him as a CI, thus has considerable importance, particularly in evaluating the FBI and Novel and its unquestioning use of what it got from him.

N.O. Novel files are included in this addition to the earlier appeals.